

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-4, 6-10, 12-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Riesing in view of Holzer. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Riesing and Holzer and further in view of Obata et al. Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rising and Holzer and further in view of Goodman.

Amended claim 12 calls for a use of a sealing lip made of CO₂ impervious gas barrier material for the purpose of sealing a refrigerant CO₂ gas having an extremely high pressure, as high as 4-12 MPa, prevailing in a refrigerating system using CO₂ gas as a refrigerant.

Use of the CO₂ impervious sealing lip is advantageous in effectively preventing loss of refrigerant CO₂ gas held at an extremely high gas pressure, as described on page 4, lines 24-28, of the specification. The relatively high rigidity of the non-elastomeric sealing lip serves to sufficiently withstand the extremely high pressure of CO₂ gas, as described on page 4, lines 29-34, of the specification. Nevertheless, the high pressure of CO₂ gas as applied to the sealing lip advantageously causes the sealing lip and the low friction lining to resiliently follow any shaft runout, to thereby develop sufficient dynamic and static

sealing functions, as described on page 4, line 32, to page 5, line 5.

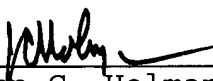
None of the references cited discloses or suggests the use of a sealing lip made of polyamide or CO₂ impervious gas barrier material for sealing a high pressure CO₂ gas in a refrigerating system wherein CO₂ gas is used as a refrigerant.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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